



FEATURES
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SBC Executive Committee
480 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor

November 5, 1975
Tiny N.Y. Church Enrolls
1,725 in Summer Programs

75-172

By Tim Nicholas

DEPEW, N.Y. (BP)--A tiny pioneer Southern Baptist church in upstate New York enrolled 1,725 children in its summer program this year, a successful summer for a 70-member congregation.

Mothers viewed it as free babysitting and "the kids loved it," said Jim Bullis, pastor of the sponsoring Veteran's Park Baptist Church. Along with free snow cones, came handcrafts and basic Bible stories.

But when volunteers from the church contacted parents of children who had participated in the 14 Vacation Bible Schools, eight weeks of day camping and 10 weeks of day nursery for working mothers' children the reaction was one of shock, says Bullis, who reported the summer total.

"There's a shocked look on parents' faces when we suggest attendance at a Baptist church," says the minister who has been working in the area just east of Buffalo, N.Y., 10 years.

One volunteer knocked at a door where a woman called to her husband: "'Oh, honey, come quick. This woman is crazy. She says God created the world,'" Bullis recalls. Three park attendants were almost fired because they sat in a class where volunteers were teaching about Christ. Two of the attendants had made decision in favor of Christ.

In another incident, "A mother said to me," Bullis noted, "'My daughter told me of the fun. I never knew you were teaching the Bible.'

More than 100 volunteers, including church members, a youth group from Virginia, some adults from Alabama, two Home Mission Board Christian Service Corps workers, two Baptist Student Union and three Home Board student summer missionaries contributed to the summer programs' success, Bullis says.

Although the church has had few additions to its membership as a result of the summer program, Bullis views it as a "time of sowing." The "harvest" is to come in the future for the Baptist congregation which receives pastoral aid from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, the pastor notes.

The church presently has a day care center, licensed by the State of New York, and three ongoing home Bible fellowships, in addition to other regular activities and programs. At last report, they were trying to launch two more Bible studies.

The day care center operates year-round, 10 hours a day, with 15-25 children. And the church recently hired a youth director, as half of the 70-90 persons attending church activities are high school students, Bullis said.

Even with shocked reactions from parents at the thought of attending a Baptist church, the little congregation is known in the community--not primarily as a Southern Baptist church--but as "the church that does things for people," said Bullis.

"The local judge helped us draw up our incorporation papers for the day care center," the minister said, "and the DePew police send over anybody who mentions the name Baptist."

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Bicentennial Feature

Baptists Preach in Spite
Of Jail, Bread & Water

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URBANNA, Va., August 26, 1771--(BP)--Four Baptist ministers were ordered held in close jail and fed on bread and water because they refused to quit preaching their doctrine in Middlesex County.

The preachers, arrested Aug., 10, 1771, while conducting an unauthorized Baptist meeting, were John Waller, Robert Ware, James Greenwood, and William Webber. They were held in close confinement.

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The court's sentence was that each of the ministers post bonds totaling 75 pounds each under condition that they be of good behavior for six months. "Good behavior" meant that the Baptists were not to preach in the county.

The preachers refused to do this on the grounds that they "ought to obey God rather than men."

The Baptists told authorities at the time of their arrest that they had authority "from above" to preach. This was not good enough for the magistrates, however, who recognized only the license of the state church.

During the proceedings the ministers were under close guard as dangerous criminals, and their hearing was little more than a formality. At the time of their arrest, Webber who was preaching, narrowly escaped a clubbing by one of the officers. Thomas Waford, a Baptist layman who was later released, was severely beaten by a member of the posse which interrupted the meeting.

Although the prisoners were not being allowed outside their cells confinement did not prevent them from preaching. The day following their arrest was Sunday, so the prisoners conducted services with Greenwood preaching from his cell window.

The Baptists met with both bitter opposition and faithful support following their arrest. Large crowds attended their services, conducted every Sunday and Wednesday, and friends did what they could to make the prisoners comfortable.

On the other hand, their antagonists interrupted the jail services and attempted to drown out their preaching with loud noises and other distractions.



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NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
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Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 254-5461
RICHMOND Richard M. Styles, Acting Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

November 5, 1975

75-172

Missouri Baptists Adopt
Constitution; Set Budget

CAPE GIRARDEAU (BP)--Missouri Baptists adopted a new constitution and approved an annual budget of \$6 million during their 141st annual session here.

The more than 1,300 registered "messengers" also elected G. Nelson Duke, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jefferson City, as president for the coming year and defeated a proposal to create a convention board of publication for the Word and Way, the Missouri state Baptist paper.

Constitutional debate dominated the annual meeting, with the role of convention officers dominating the constitutional debate. The structure and reorganization committee of the convention recommended separate officers for the convention and its executive board. However, the messengers voted to make the convention officers also the officers of the executive board.

Only a late-night meeting between proponents of both sides worked out the conflicts in the proposed constitution after the convention's action about officers.

The proposal for a separate board for the Word and Way was also a part of the constitutional debate. Convention president Hugh Wamble advocated the separate board concept, as well as the concept of convention officers serving as executive board officers, in his president's address. The messengers, however, decisively defeated the motion for the separate board.

The \$6 million Cooperative Program unified budget represents a \$5 million operational budget and a \$1 million "challenge budget." Worldwide missions causes will receive 35 percent of the operational budget and about 23 percent of the challenge budget through the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program.

Next year the convention will meet in Independence, Mo., in a joint meeting with the three National (black) Baptist Conventions of Missouri, Oct. 18-20.

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Foreign Board Appoints 16;
Approves \$215,000 for Relief

Baptist Press
11/5/75

RICHMOND (BP)--The appropriation of \$215,000 for world relief and the appointment of 16 missionaries highlighted the November meeting of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Relief appropriations for 1975 now total \$1,176,564.

Bangladesh will receive \$200,000 of November's relief appropriations. Projects for food production, food distribution and the rehabilitation of families will each consume \$60,000, totaling \$180,000. An additional \$20,000 will go to family planning information and education.

Other relief funds approved include \$10,000 for relief needs in Angola to be administered through the Baptist World Alliance, and \$5,000 for upgrading dairy goat stock at the Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center in the Philippines.

The appointment of 16 missionaries to serve in eight countries was held at Columbia Baptist Church, Falls Church, Va., before more than 1,000 people. The total number of missionaries appointed to date during 1975 is 237.

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The board also heard an update on studies of "bold new plans" in which the board is currently engaged.

Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary, commended the work of a coordinating committee presently involved in compiling input from 13 work groups into one document which will be presented for the board's consideration at the December meeting. The work groups, each composed of board members and staff members, have met during recent months to discuss special topics leading to recommendations to the coordinating committee.

"I think we're going to see, as a result of this process, some of the most thorough work that we have had the privilege of enjoying," Cauthen said.

The strategy planning eventually will result in a report to the 1976 Southern Baptist Convention in Norfolk.

In other action, the board approved a plan for the internationalization of the board of trustees of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Tex., and awarded medical receptorships to five students.

Effective Jan. 1, 1977, the board of trustees for the El Paso publishing house will include six missionaries and six Latin American Baptists from countries where publishing house literature is used. Currently, trustee membership is limited to missionaries.

Medical receptorships, an arrangement in which the board provides short-term overseas opportunities for qualified medical students, were awarded to Chris L. Feucht and Andy M. Norman, students at the Medical College of Georgia, Augusta; M. Thomas (Tom) Cutrell, Ill., University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas; John S. Mustol, Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, N. C.; and Clydette L. Powell, John Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md.

Appointed as career missionaries were Mr. and Mrs. J. Larry Cox from Mississippi and Tennessee, assigned to the Ivory Coast, West Africa; Mr. and Mrs. Dale W. Dison, Alabama, to East Africa; Mr. and Mrs. John A. Gray, Pennsylvania and India, to Upper Volta, West Africa.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. Coy W. Jones Jr., Georgia, to Indonesia; Mr. and Mrs. Van G. Newman, Alabama, to Chile; Mr. and Mrs. Mike M. Shockley, Missouri and Colorado, to Ghana; and Mr. and Mrs. Mark A. Sutton, Arkansas and Louisiana, to France. Mr. and Mrs. Garreth E. Joiner, missionaries to Ecuador, who resigned in 1974, were reappointed to Ecuador.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Hal Hunter from Florida were employed as missionary associates to Japan.

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Annuity Board Issues
Another '13th Check'

Baptist Press
11/5/75

DALLAS (BP)--More than 9,000 annuitants will be getting an extra month's benefit this year through the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention here.

Trustees of the Annuity Board have voted a "13th check" amounting to 8 and one-third percent of the annual benefit in plans qualifying for the extra payment, board president Darold H. Morgan announced.

The disbursement, in early December, will amount to about \$750,000. Annuitants must have been enrolled as of September 30 in one of the qualifying plans to receive the "13th check".

The "13th check", so called because it is paid above the 12 regular benefit checks for the year, dates back to 1967, when it was first issued. It has been paid every year since, although it is not a contractual obligation.

This check helps annuitants to grapple with the rising costs of everyday living, a board spokesman said. The amount of interest paid on investments determines the size of the additional check.

The annuitants are retired or disabled ministers and denominational workers, or their widows.

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